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As a careful statement of the general problem of education, the book furnishes an excellent background for critical thinking and correlated experimentation.

G. T. BUSWELL

The rural community.—Numerous agencies have been interested to effect an organization of the forces of rural community life which would be permanently successful in promoting specified social or economic aims. One of the outstanding difficulties in the way of effecting such an organization among rural folk is the determination of the natural or social boundaries of the area to be organized. It is offered in explanation of the failure of many attempts at rural community organization that the geographical unit selected comprised too many and too diverse centers of interest to admit of unification of purpose. Other efforts have failed because of an insufficient number of common interests. A recent study¹ of this particular phase of the problem describes certain selected rural units which are defined by existing institutions or influences, and analyzes these in terms of the conditions and relationships which are regarded as essential to effective organization of the socio-economic forces of rural life.

Noting first the lack of a central guiding policy in the activities of the various agencies seeking the improvement of rural community life, the author emphasizes the need for a recognition of the changing rural psychology, and for an analysis of the influence of the farmer's attitude of mind upon his mode of living and his institutions. The increasing commercialization of agriculture, improvements in means of communication and transportation, and the wider use of mechanical appliances have served both to overcome the farmer's individualism and to endow him with a greater reserve power and alertness for associative activities. Rural organization plans will prove themselves successful only as they are constructed in recognition of this newer characteristic of country life. From the point of view of the selection of a rural unit which may be expected to lend itself to effective organization, such recognition is interpreted by the author to mean that "this unit should have a sufficient area of territory within which the farm population may have enough cohesion to work together, enough volume of numbers and of wealth for the creation of necessary institutions, and sufficient concentration within the unit to allow for the distribution of needed public utilities" (p. v).

Applying this standard to such defined areas as have commonly been chosen as units of organization, the author finds that the rural trade area of villages, towns, and cities may, in particularly favored situations, be a good rural organization unit; but, in general, the trading center does not hold enough interests which are vital to all members of the group to cause them to feel and act concertedly. The small rural school district is found to be too small in area and in population to provide a sufficient number and variety of social contacts. The rural parish is not sufficiently comprehensive and frequently lacks compact-

¹ AUGUSTUS W. HAYES, *Rural Community Organization*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1921. Pp. xi+127.

ness and cohesion. In the consideration of these units, the author describes the general characteristics of the area and its population in each case, and presents a detailed analysis of at least one actual unit with which he has been identified. Other special units described from the point of view of their adaptability to social and economic organization are the township, the New England town, the typical country community of the southern states, and a special type of unit known as the North Carolina Incorporation Plan. With the exception of the New England town, which appears to be well adapted to community organization by virtue of the fact that the town is usually a natural community, these latter units are subject to the same sort of limitations noted in the discussion of the trade area, small school district, and parish.

In the end the author finds the most promising conditions as regards rural community organization in the consolidated school district. In general, it is found that consolidated districts are outlined more in conformity with natural, socio-economic units of population, and the farmers appear to recognize this district as the center of their social, economic, and religious activities. Such a district is usually organized about a village, town, or trade center, includes a sufficient population to insure adequate social leadership, sufficient wealth to maintain effective social institutions, such as the high school, and makes possible the kind of activities that the farmer's standard of living and attitude of mind demand. In addition to a detailed description of certain districts of this type, the author presents the statements of county superintendents and other authorities in different states relative to the community value of the consolidated school district.

The study has evidently been carefully made, and sufficient concrete material is presented to enable the reader to visualize the situation in each unit described. Besides its value to those interested in the problems of rural community organization, the discussion has a direct bearing upon many of the specifically educational problems of rural life.

N. B. HENRY

An analysis of professional work for women.—The readjustments made necessary in the labor market by the post-war business depression have brought forth a large number of writings on the topic of occupational guidance. Unfortunately, many of the recent publications are not the result of a scientific search for facts and principles. The immediate situation has been too frequently assumed to be both normal and static.

It is encouraging to note the appearance of a new and scholarly volume¹ dealing with professional work for women. The Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston is the organization sponsoring the preparation of this analytical study. This volume brings down to date, and adds to, the information for prospective women professional workers which was included in a much earlier publication entitled, *Vocations for the Trained Woman, Part I.*

¹ ELIZABETH KEMPER ADAMS, *Women Professional Workers*. New York: Macmillan Co., Pp. xiv+467.